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 May 3, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/355,433 accorded a filing date of July 27, 1999, which is a National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US98/01119 filed on January 5, 1998, and which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/789,934 filed on January 28, 1997, maturing into U.S. Patent No. 6,009,355 issued on December 28, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS

✓ Cancel claims 1-128.

Add claims 129-154 as follows:

Sub B1
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 129. A method for assisting a user of a vehicle comprising:
 determining whether the vehicle needs a service;
 obtaining GPS data concerning a location of at least one service provider for
 providing the service when it is determined that the vehicle needs the service;
 obtaining GPS data concerning a current location of the vehicle; and
 comparing the GPS data concerning the location of the at least one service
 provider with the GPS data concerning the current location of the vehicle in selecting a
 service provider to provide the service.

130. The method of claim 129 further comprising communicating to the user
 information about the selected service provider when the selected service provider is
 within a predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

131. The method of claim 130 wherein the information is communicated via
 audio media.

132. The method of claim 130 wherein the information is communicated visually.

Sub 132
133. The method of claim 129 wherein GPS data concerning a location of the selected service provider is supplied to a navigator for providing directions to reach the location of the selected service provider.

Sub 133
134. The method of claim 129 further comprising determining a distance between a location of the selected service provider and the current location of the vehicle based on the respective GPS data.

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135. The method of claim 134 wherein the selected service provider is selected based on the distance.

136. The method of claim 129 wherein the selected service provider includes a service station.

Sub C3
137. A method for use in a system in a vehicle comprising:
storing GPS data concerning locations of a plurality of service providers;
identifying a condition of the vehicle;
retrieving GPS data concerning a location of at least one of the plurality of service providers in response to the condition; and
comparing GPS data concerning a current location of the vehicle with the retrieved GPS data to select a service provider to attend to the condition.

138. The method of claim 137 wherein the condition includes a maintenance warning.

Sub B4 139. The method of claim 137 further comprising communicating information about the selected service provider when the selected service provider is within a predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

140. The method of claim 139 wherein the information is communicated via audio media.

141. The method of claim 139 wherein the information is communicated visually.

Sub B5 142. The method of claim 137 wherein GPS data concerning a location of the selected service provider is supplied to a navigator for providing directions to reach the location of the selected service provider.

cert A2 143. The method of claim 137 further comprising determining a distance between a location of the selected service provider and the current location of the vehicle based on the respective GPS data.

Sub H 144. The method of claim 143 wherein the selected service provider is selected based on the distance.

Sub E 145. The method of claim 137 wherein the selected service provider includes a service station.

Sub B 146. A system for use in a vehicle comprising:

A memory for storing GPS data concerning a plurality of service providers;
a mechanism for identifying a condition of the vehicle, GPS data concerning at

least one of the plurality of service providers being retrieved from the memory in response to the condition; and

a processor for comparing GPS data concerning a current location of the vehicle with the retrieved GPS data to select a service provider to attend to the condition.

147. The system of claim 146 wherein the condition includes a maintenance warning.

148. The system of claim 146 further comprising an interface for communicating information about the selected service provider when the selected service provider is within a predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

149. The system of claim 148 wherein the information is communicated via audio media.

150. The system of claim 148 wherein the interface includes a display element, and the information is displayed on the display element.

151. The system of claim 146 wherein GPS data concerning a location of the selected service provider is supplied to a navigator for providing directions to reach the location of the selected service provider.

152. The system of claim 146 wherein a distance between a location of the selected service provider and the current location of the vehicle is determined based on the respective GPS data.

153. The system of claim 146 wherein the selected service provider is selected based on the distance.

154. The system of claim 146 wherein the selected service provider includes a service station.

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